

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A steering column assembly for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a steering shaft defining at least one receiving portion; and

a locking pin selectively insertable in said ~~a~~ at least one receiving portion and having a first truncated cone portion narrowing from a first end at a first angle to a second end and a second truncated cone portion extending from said second end and narrowing from said second end at a second angle to a third end and said first and second angles being different.

2. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 1 wherein said second angle is less than said first angle.

3. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 2 wherein said second angle is one-half said first angle.

4. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 3 wherein said second angle is four degrees.

5. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 1 wherein both said first and second truncated cone portions define first and second maximum diameters and each of said first and second maximum diameters are insertable in said receiving portion.

6. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 1 wherein both said first and second truncated cone portions extend concentrically with respect to one another.

7. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 1 wherein said receiving portion extends in parallel relation to said steering shaft and in coaxial relation to at least one of said truncated cone portions.

8. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 1 wherein said steering shaft is further defined as a steering shaft mounted for rotation and a plate member immovably associated with said steering shaft and defining said receiving portion.

9. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 1 wherein said receiving portion is one of an aperture and a notch.

10. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 1 wherein at least one of said truncated cone portions defines a cam follower surface.

11. (Original) A steering column assembly for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a steering shaft;

a plate member immovably associated with said steering shaft and defining a receiving portion; and

a locking pin selectively insertable in said receiving portion, said locking pin having a first truncated cone portion narrowing from a first end at a first angle to a second end and a second truncated cone portion extending from said second end and narrowing from said second end at a second angle to a third end and said first and second angles being different and wherein said second angle is less than said first angle.

12. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 11 wherein both said first and second truncated cone portions are intermittently insertable in said receiving portion during rotation of said plate member.

13. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 11 wherein said receiving portion extends in parallel relation to said steering shaft and in coaxial relation to both of said truncated cone portions.

14. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 11 wherein only one of said truncated cone portions defines a cam follower surface.

15. (Original) The steering column assembly of claim 11 wherein said receiving portion is one of an aperture and a notch.

16. (Original) A steering column assembly for an automotive vehicle comprising:

- a steering column housing defining a first longitudinal recess and a second recess extending parallel and offset with respect to said first recess;

- a steering shaft mounted for rotation within said first recess of said steering column housing;

- a plate member immovably associated with said steering shaft and defining a receiving portion intermittently communicating with said second recess during rotation of said steering shaft; and

- a locking pin slidably mounted within said second recess of said steering column housing and selectively insertable in said receiving portion when said receiving portion is in communication with said second recess, said locking pin having a first truncated cone portion narrowing from a first end at a first angle to a second end and a second truncated cone portion extending from said second end and narrowing from said second end at a second angle to a third end and said first and second angles being different.